

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

HOLLY LYNN GEBHARDT,

Plaintiff,

v.

BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS,  
et al.,

Defendants.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-2312 (MLC)

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

**THE COURT** having ordered the plaintiff to show cause why the complaint should not be dismissed for (1) failure to comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure ("Rule") 4(m), and (2) lack of prosecution under Local Civil Rule 41.1(a) and Rule 41(b) (dkt. entry no. 2); and it appearing that the plaintiff failed to serve the summons and complaint on the defendants within 120 days after filing the complaint; and the Court advising the plaintiff that the complaint would be dismissed unless the plaintiff either (1) showed good cause for this failure, or (2) established that service was effected within the 120-day period, see Fed.R.Civ.P. 4(m), Sykes v. Blockbuster Video, 205 Fed.Appx. 961, 963-64 (3d Cir. 2006); and the Court notifying the plaintiff of the intention to dismiss the complaint, see Liu v. Oriental Buffet, 134 Fed.Appx. 544, 546 (3d Cir. 2005); and

**IT APPEARING FURTHER**, in any event, that the action had been pending for more than 120 days without the plaintiff having taken any proceedings; and the Court advising the plaintiff that the

complaint would be dismissed unless good cause was shown for the lack of prosecution, see L.Civ.R. 41.1(a), see also Fed.R.Civ.P. 41(b) (stating complaint may be dismissed for failure to prosecute); and the Court being authorized to impose harsh penalties when enforcing the Local Civil Rules, see Kabacinski v. Bostrom Seating, 98 Fed.Appx. 78, 82 n.3 (3d Cir. 2004), United States v. 11 Vehs., Their Equip. & Accessories, 200 F.3d 203, 214 (3d Cir. 2000); and

**THE PLAINTIFF** failing to respond to the Court's inquiry; and thus the Court intending to (1) grant the order to show cause, and (2) dismiss the complaint for the plaintiff's failure to comply with Rule 4(m);<sup>1</sup> and for good cause appearing, the Court will issue an appropriate order and judgment.<sup>2</sup>

s/ Mary L. Cooper  
**MARY L. COOPER**  
United States District Judge

**Dated:** December 6, 2007

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<sup>1</sup> It is unnecessary for the Court to balance the Poulis factors for a dismissal pursuant to Rule 41, see Poulis v. State Farm Fire & Cas. Co., 747 F.2d 863, 868 (3d Cir. 1984), as the plaintiff has failed to comply with Rule 4(m).

<sup>2</sup> The Court notes that whether the plaintiff "did or did not receive the District Court's . . . order which directed [her] to comply with Rule 4 is irrelevant; [she] was still expected to comply with the rules of procedure." Sykes, 205 Fed.Appx. at 963.